

Brussels, 18 November 2002

13971/02 (Presse 348)

**SIGNATURE OF THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE
EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND ITS MEMBER STATES AND
THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE**

Brussels, 18 November 2002

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

At the ceremony held in Brussels today, the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Republic of Chile, of the other part, signed an Association Agreement.

▪ ***For the European Community, signed :***

Mr Per Stig MØLLER

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of
Denmark, President of the Council

Mr Chris PATTEN

Member of the European Commission

and for the ***Member States***, Foreign Ministers or their Representatives.

▪ ***For the Republic of Chile, signed:***

Ms María Soledad ALVEAR

Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Chile

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On this date Chile and the European Union signed an Association Agreement incorporating three areas: political, cooperation and economic/commercial. The negotiating process was completed within a two-year period, by way of ten negotiating rounds which ended in April 2002.

With this Agreement, Chile and the European Union are consolidating a strategic relationship based on common political values such as the promotion of democracy and the defence of human rights, sustainable development, free trade, good governance and social equity.

The Agreement includes political dialogue at the highest level, covering cooperation in various areas of foreign and security policy, the fight against terrorism, as well as bilateral and international questions of mutual interest. At the same time, it intensifies cooperation in the economic and financial, scientific, technological, social and cultural fields, thus reinforcing the agreements of 1990 and 1996 which serve as a basis for the new Agreement.

This Association Agreement between Chile and the European Union represents one of the most ambitious and innovative trade agreements ever negotiated by the European Union within the framework of bilateral agreements with third countries, since it covers all sectors of trade relations with a view to WTO commitments, in particular an area of free trade in goods and services.

For Chile, the signing of this Agreement represents a great challenge, strengthening its relations with one of its main partners in the world and opening the door for Chilean exporters to a market of at present 400 million inhabitants, which will increase with the prospect of EU enlargement as from 2004. It is likewise necessary to extend the benefits of the Agreement to all the inhabitants of the country by means of a policy of social cohesion.

The Association Agreement will enable Chile and the European Union to develop and foster a privileged relationship, which will not only contribute to closer relations between the parties, but will also serve as a catalyst for strengthening relations between Latin America and Europe.